



APRIL 2016

Q MAGAZINE

LGBTI
World
Lifestyle
Community



featuring
THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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q comment:

LGBTI community survey shows more needs to be done by federal and local governments

The Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (VGLRL) has released the results of its community survey conducted during this year's Midsumma Carnival.

This is the first time that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community has been asked about what issues are important for local government as well as federal government, and the results will influence the VGLRL's lobbying efforts in the lead up to this year's federal and local government elections.

"It is concerning that despite advances in policing and anti-discrimination protections, LGBTI Victorians still consider discrimination, harassment and hate speech to be an issue of high importance. Obviously more needs to be done to translate the protections under law into practice and to create safer communities for LGBTI Victorians," said Rachael Hambleton, VGLRL Co-Convenor.

"The attacks on Safe Schools and increased speculation around a costly and divisive marriage plebiscite are clearly having an impact. LGBTI Victorians ranked mental health and safe schooling as issues of high importance to them."

Birth certificate amendments were ranked as an issue of high importance to 85% of transgender people surveyed.

"Based on this feedback, we will be working closely with trans, gender diverse and intersex community organisations to advance birth certificate reforms in the Victorian Parliament to enable people to alter their birth certificate without having to undergo surgery or divorcing their partner. These laws are outdated and clearly in need of reform," said Sean Mulcahy, VGLRL Co-Convenor.

"The idea that it is not the role of local government to advocate for or publicly support LGBTI residents and that this is best left to other levels of government has been blown out of the water by this survey. LGBTI people clearly want local governments to provide inclusive health and community services and want to be consulted on issues that affect them," said Mr Mulcahy.

For more information about the Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and the work of the Board, go to www.vglrl.org.au

visit**gay**Australia 



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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine
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q feature: THE PRODUCTION COMPANY'S 2016 SEASON

"NOBODY, NO, NOBODY IS GONNA RAIN ON MY PARADE"

Jeanne Pratt AC, Chairman of The Production Company, has announced her Company's 2016 season, starring CAROLINE O'CONNOR, DAVID HOBSON, NANCYE HAYES, SIMON GLEESON, AMY LEHPAMER AND TODD McKENNEY
IN PRODUCTION COMPANY 2016 SEASON

"Sensational artists in three great musicals comprise The Production Company's new season. The classic Broadway musical, FUNNY GIRL, will open the season in the State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne on July 23, the Kander and Ebb musical comedy Whodunnit, CURTAINS is in August and the Australian musical, DUSTY will be in the Playhouse Arts Centre Melbourne from November 12."



Subscriptions for the season are now on sale.

Prices are highly competitive with a subscription to see all three shows costing as little as \$108.

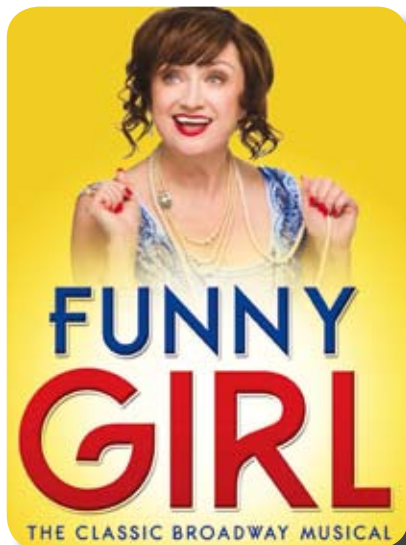
FUNNY GIRL opens in Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre on July 23 for a season of ten performances.

The brilliant Caroline O'Connor stars in Gale Edwards' new staging of this classic Broadway musical about the great Broadway comedienne, Fanny Brice. Caroline O'Connor: *"I'm so excited to be returning to The Production Company this year to reprise one of my favourite roles, Fanny Brice in FUNNY GIRL. This show has a very special place in my heart and brings back a lot of wonderful memories particularly as it was in the first season The Production Company ever staged back in 1999. I'm really looking forward to working with my incredible director Gale Edwards again. It's been 3 years since we worked together on Gypsy and that experience is something I'll always treasure. I'm proud and honoured to be part of The Production Company family."*

Told in flashback, we follow her life from stage-struck teen to stardom in the Ziegfeld Follies, and her stormy relationship with the debonair gambler, Nick Arnstein. The sensational Australian tenor, David Hobson makes his debut with The Production Company as Nick Arnstein and the legendary Nancye Hayes is Fanny's mother, Mrs Brice. Nancye Hayes:

"I'm very excited to be part of this season. The opportunity to work with Gale Edwards and Caroline O'Connor (in the same production this time) has me very, very excited. These two women have had wonderful careers and are highly regarded in this country, and to spend time with them both in the rehearsal room and on stage is going to be truly wonderful."

Jule Styne's incredible score includes the hits: Don't Rain on My Parade, People and I'm the Greatest Star. Directed by award winning Gale Edwards and the Musical Director is Anthony Gabriele who returns from London West End seasons of Phantom of the Opera, The Lion King and CATS.



CURTAINS opens in Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre on August 20 for a season of ten performances.

Boston, 1959, it's the opening night of Robbin' Hood of the Old West when suddenly at the curtain call, its supremely untalented leading lady is murdered onstage. The entire cast and crew are suspects. Enter Lieutenant Frank Cioffi, local detective and passionate amateur theatrical who unravels the mystery, fixes the show and falls in love with the ingénue, Miss Niki Harris.

Simon Gleeson, (Les Misérables and CHESS) stars as Frank Cioffi. Simon Gleeson: *"Curtains is a stunning piece, it is a hell of a lot of fun, we have an amazing cast and a wonderful director, Roger Hodgman. It's going to be fun, impulsive and a laugh a minute, it's a very funny show".*

In the role of Niki Harris is Alinta Chidzey. Melissa Langton is the brassy Broadway producer, Carmen Bernstein. Lucy Maunder and Alex Rathgeber are Georgia and Aaron, the show's song writing team.

The creative team that staged last season's enchanting Nice Work If you Can Get It returns for this Australian premiere season. Director is Helpmann Award winner, Roger Hodgman (Show Boat, Grey Gardens), Musical Director John Foreman (The Boy From Oz, Singin' in the Rain) and Choreographer is Dana Jolly (Show Boat, Grey Gardens).



DUSTY opens in Arts Centre Melbourne's Playhouse on November 12 for a season of 17 performances.

In the 1960's, Dusty Springfield took the world by storm with her unique, sensual soul singing and a score of hits including I Only Want To Be With You, Wishin' and Hopin', The Look of Love, You Don't Have to Say You Love Me, I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself, and Son of a Preacher Man. DUSTY the musical features these hits and many more! It's the story of the shy, young Londoner, Mary O'Brien who transforms herself into the blonde, pop-icon Dusty Springfield.

Amy Lehpamer returns to The Production Company in the role of Dusty Springfield. The brilliant Todd McKenney will be her camp, loyal hairdresser and long time confidant, Rodney.

Todd McKenney: *"I'm really thrilled to be asked to play Rodney in DUSTY working with the beautiful Amy Lehpamer. Rodney is probably the only gay character I haven't played up to this point in my career so I can tick this one off my bucket list! I love the adrenaline I get from doing a Production Company show because everything is so fast."*

DUSTY the musical is the creation of the Australian writers John-Michael Howson, David Mitchell and Melvyn Morrow. Ten years since its premiere, it's time to fall in love with DUSTY all over again.

Jason Langley directs DUSTY, his first musical for The Production Company, Michael Tyack, the outstanding expert on musical theatre conducts and Michael Ralph, who did the choreography for West Side Story last season, will choreograph DUSTY.



See theproductioncompany.com.au for more.

q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Tweeters from the Atlantic'

Barrie Mahoney was a head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands to launch and edit a new English language newspaper. He enjoys life in the sun as a columnist and author, and continues to write a series of popular novels and books for expats.



The European Expat

Cards on the table, I am pro European, and have always been committed to the European project, and would vote to remain in the EU with or without a deal. Frankly, I have found the UK Prime Minister's recent tour of Europe to squeeze a better deal for the UK to be embarrassing, petulant, tinkering, and one that is hard to explain intelligently to European friends and neighbours. The European club is far from perfect, but reform by working together within the club of nations is far more effective than stomping off the pitch and shouting insults at the remaining players.

The EU debate is now one of those areas of life where the passions and debate from both sides of the argument are coming to the fore, and sadly, already creating some unpleasantness.

I will not rehearse the already familiar arguments from both sides relating to security, immigration and the economy, since there are many more people who have much greater knowledge and experience of such matters, but will restrict my comments to several issues that would be likely to have an impact upon expats living in Spain.

Currently, expats enjoy the freedom of being able to live and work in any country of their choosing within the EU. Today, I live in the Canary Islands, but tomorrow I could pack my bags and choose to live and work in the Netherlands, Italy, or any of the 28 member states of the EU. Spanish and European law gives foreign residents permanent right to reside once they have been legally resident for five years.

Currently, all European expats have this right regardless of the whim of any individual government who, for political reasons, may decide to change the rules. I contrast this to the time before the EU treaty, when work permits had to be applied for and regularly renewed; residency, together with the right to purchase a home in some pre EU countries was severely restricted or near impossible to achieve.

Speaking to older expats who lived through this process, reminds me of visa restrictions that are currently in place for expats living in Thailand and other popular expat destinations; it can be done, but it is not easy. For me, this right of residency has been one of the greatest advantages of being a member of the European Union.

Others will say that expats from Switzerland and Norway, who are not within the EU, live quite happily as expats in Spain. This is partly true, but their right to remain in the country is one of individual agreement between governments, subject to political whim and political pressure, and not one of right, which UK expats currently enjoy within the EU.

The reciprocity of health benefits is an area that concerns many expats living in Spain. The current arrangement for health cover being funded by the UK government would cease once the UK left the European Union. Expats would then be responsible for negotiating their own health insurance, or hope that some form of replacement agreement between the Spanish and UK governments would eventually be put into place.

Currently, there is a safety net arrangement in place in Spain for those who became legal residents before April 2012, but again, this depends upon the attitude, generosity and financial pressures faced by a future Spanish government; it is not guaranteed. One has only to add the thorny issue of Gibraltar into the equation and the friendly relations that are currently enjoyed by both countries could quickly be soured. I suspect that healthcare would be a major issue of continuing concern for most expats living in Spain.

Many expats rely upon a salary or pension from the UK. As we are already seeing, the value of the pound is falling rapidly and experts warn that this period of instability will continue until the referendum. This uncertainty and instability is already an example of

what could happen if the UK left the EU, although eventually the pound could become stronger than the euro once again, but it may remain volatile. Credit rating agencies are already nervous about the UK leaving the EU and forecast a reduction in the UK's credit standing. The credit rating agencies are already warning of both short-term disruptions, as well as long-term implications for the UK's global financial standing.

The UK Government will pay pensions wherever pensioners request, but there are no pension increases for pensioners living outside the EU. UK pensioners would find themselves in a similar position to expats living in Canada or Australia, whereby pensions are frozen at the same rate as when they left the UK.

Experts suggest that pensions would be frozen at the rate applicable at the date of the referendum should there be a vote to leave.

Whatever the decision, what is in no doubt is the bumpy ride that we will all have to endure until June 23rd. As with all organisations, the European Union needs to recognise its imperfections and adapt to current conditions and the demands of citizens. Hopefully, this can be achieved through listening, discussion and mature negotiation.

From the expat point of view, given the many financial, political and humanitarian issues that the World is currently facing, now is not the time to take a leap off the cliff.

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.barriemahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his book, 'Island in the Sun' (ISBN: 9780992767181). Available in paperback, as well as Kindle.



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q opera: OA AUTUMN SEASON

MELBOURNE AUTUMN SEASON 2016

60th Anniversary Season with New & Rare Diamonds

La Bohème 3 May | The Pearlfishers 7 May | Luisa Miller 16 May



Opera Australia (OA) is set to take over the State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne for all of May, with the long-awaited return of *La Bohème* (Puccini), a brand new Australian production of *The Pearlfishers* (Bizet) and for the first time, rare masterpiece *Luisa Miller* (Verdi).

"For our 60th anniversary programming, I wanted to offer Melbourne audiences three completely distinct opera experiences," said Opera Australia Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini. *"To start the season, we're thrilled to have lured opera superstars Lianna Haroutounian (Mimi) and Gianluca Terranova (Rodolfo) back to Australia exclusively for La Bohème in Melbourne. Gale Edward's Weimar-inspired production hasn't been in Victoria since its triumphant premiere in 2011, and without doubt the score is a fan favourite."*

"Michael Gow's stunning re-working of The Pearlfishers turns the narrative on its head by making the male principal roles colonialists. We're thrilled to have local stars Emma Matthews (Léïla) and José Carbó (Zurga) joined by Dmitry Korchak (Nadir) making his Australian debut direct from the Vienna State Opera."

"The final show in the season is an extremely rare gem. Before Don Carlos, Aida and La Traviata, Verdi wrote Luisa Miller, a dark and brooding thriller that we are excited to stage in Victoria for the first time, co-produced with Opéra de Lausanne. It's fitting that the title role will be played by Melbournian Nicole Car, who has recently enjoyed enormous success at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden."

The three shows will feature a collective cast of 86 performers, plus the 65 technical, wardrobe and creative staff it takes to mount three concurrent productions in Melbourne. All operas will be performed by Orchestra Victoria. The season includes a total of 22 performances, with shows on Saturdays requiring the crew to bump-out an entire production after the matinee and bump-in a different show for the evening performance.

About Opera Australia:

Originally known as the Australia Elizabethan Theatre Trust, 21 July marks 60 years since OA staged its first production. Industry website Bachtrack recently named OA as the third busiest opera company in the world, only behind The Metropolitan Opera (New York) and The Royal Opera (London). In 2015 OA staged a total of 751 performances, including 193 opera performances, 17 festival performances of new Australian work *The Rabbits* by Kate Miller-Heidke, 384 schools performances, 157 musical performances and delivered its first made-for-television work *The Divorce* for the ABC (watched by 1.1 million people).

Destination event *The Ring Cycle* will return in November/December exclusive to Melbourne.

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q drag: **PENNY CILLIN**

Penny Cillin is one of the rising stars at the GH. Since hosting *New Years Eve* she has gone on to become one of the stalwarts of the venue. Alan Mayberry asked her how it all came about.

I grew up in Sandringham with my mother and younger brother. All throughout school I never really got on with other boys, I always hung out with the girls. My best friends from the age of about 10 have always been girls – except nowadays my best friends are boys who dress like girls! After primary school I went to Sandringham College, well known for its performing arts. Unfortunately rather than taking advantage of the renowned drama and music programs (which would have set me up well for my drag career), I was busy studying everything science. After high school I attended Monash University for a degree in Science, which led to me still being there 6 years later completing my PhD in microbiology. Yes, seriously. Without putting the readers to sleep basically my work involves the development of new vaccine strategies against viral infections such as HIV and hepatitis. Even though the day-to-day grind and endless setbacks of medical research can be soul destroying, I enjoy the challenge of attempting something no one else has done before.

I stayed firmly shut in the closet all throughout school and it wasn't until I got to uni and discovered the 'queer lounge' and all the campy within that I felt comfortable enough to come out. When at 19 I finally did, my family were incredibly supportive, especially dad, which was a welcome surprise. The only change was that mum started asking me for fashion advice, which I was woefully unprepared for. When it comes to my fashion sense as a boy it's jeans and a Lady Gaga shirt, perhaps the occasional flowing cardigan. When I told my grandparents I needed to tell them something important they were so relieved and said 'Oh thank god, we thought it was something serious like a drug problem or that you were dying!' To be fair it didn't come as a huge surprise to anyone with eyes or ears. I mean my favorite toys as a child were my Sailor Moon dolls, which after fighting evil by moonlight had their hair styled by yours truly. Even as a 12 year old my favorite TV show was *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*!

I was familiar with drag of course from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. I'd stay up after everyone had gone to bed to watch the episodes, furtively keeping an ear out in case someone discovered me. From the first episode I was hooked, instantly intrigued and obsessed. Several years later, cut to me fresh on the scene as a young gay. It's so cliché but it seems that as soon as we come out we go from 0 to more camp than a row of rainbow tents in Elton John's backyard fast enough to make your head spin. I was no different. Leading to my 21st birthday which was Lady Gaga themed with me dressed up as Mother Monster herself in an awful yellow wig with black roots, a disco ball bra that I made myself, a pair of cut-off short shorts, black fishnet stockings (with a bare leg might I add) and a pair of Lady Ga Ga knee-high black patent boots. My make-up, if you can even call it that, was a lick of Covergirl foundation, a smoky blue eye with winged eyeliner. Even though upon reflection I looked genuinely horrific I remember I had so much fun. At that point I guess it was only a matter of time before I did it again.



I became aware of *Destiny's Drag Race* which I started to sneak out on a Sunday to watch at DnM. I made my first drag scene friends, and a few weeks into the competition I plucked up the courage to go in drag. Just picture sideshow Bob as a lesbian stripper from an undisclosed eastern European country. By the end of the competition I'd become friendly with the two finalists and they remain some of my closest friends and Melbourne drag scene staples – Bella Nitrate and Isis Avis Loren. Spending more and more time with them over the last 2 years I have worked hard and practiced my make-up skills to be at my current level of development. That's what I enjoy about drag, the constant evolution and learning process – I'm always learning something new and growing as an artist and as a performer.

My name Penny Cillin came about from my studies in microbiology. One day I walked into my lab, opened the fridge and there was a vial of penicillin. Seemed like an obvious name choice to me. My first ever drag performance was the first *Drag.Net* competition at the GH in 2014. Admittedly for my first time on a stage a big competition probably wasn't the best choice, but I saw an opportunity and I ran with it. I didn't win my heat but I got my name out there and slowly I started being booked for gigs. The next competition in 2015 I was approached to enter as a surprise wildcard. That led to hosting with Jemima the first of the GH Friday early shows after Tabitha's departure. That was a lot of work but heaps of fun. Especially getting to work so closely with my best friend. By far my favorite moment since beginning drag was hosting the GH 2015 New Year's Eve party – working with Amena Jay was a dream come true, especially having always looked up to her not only as an amazing performer. I've since been given a lot of hosting opportunities including the Pride March After Party, Bingo and Quest for Queens and I have to say I love being on a mic. Though performance is an important part of why I do drag, hosting and getting to interact with an audience brings me more happiness than doing a spot number. I find the voices in my head hilarious, so getting to share that with a crowd of punters and actually have them laugh along with me is a really great feeling.

Without turning this into a rant I would like to share two of my biggest frustrations about the drag scene in general. First of all is the attitude of some queens, especially those who have just started. Some girls seem to think that to be a drag queen you have to be bitchy, and that's just not the case. It's not even clever or funny bitchy it's just being rude for the sake of being rude. Partially I blame the *Drag Race* phenomenon for it. If you're not going to be clever about it then I don't want to hear it. You'll get more gigs if people like you, trust me. The other is the lack of support by the greater community for local drag.

The numbers of people that stream into venues to see a RuPaul girl do two spot numbers is incredible. So it boggles my mind that those same 'fans' won't stay a second longer to appreciate the local drag talent. If you're so obsessed with drag and performance why wouldn't you stick around and check out the fabulous local personalities with their own skills and the amazing production shows that Melbourne has to offer?

I work crazy hours and then in my free time I have drag, and when I'm not performing you'll usually find me at other queens' shows supporting and enjoying the work of my friends. If you're looking I'm usually at the bar clutching a vodka and coke like it's the only liquid I've seen in weeks. Hopefully in 5 years I'll have my PhD and be working full time at a research institute, or I'll be so sick of research that I'll be working at Maccas. Drag will still be a thing I imagine, but who really knows, 5 years is a long time. 'Hi I'm Dr. Penny Cillin can I please take your order?' Or at least I'll still be helping Jessica James drop her Bingo balls every Wednesday!



q cuisine: with ALESSANDRO RUSSO

Rice with potatoes and mussels can prepare a tasty main dish that comes from the Apulian cuisine, and is usually called tiella rice, potatoes and mussels, where the "baking dish" is the special earthenware pan in which it is cooked.

The preparation is not difficult, just because you have all the ingredients in layers in baking dish, combining even onions and tomatoes and then cook it in the oven, resulting in a perfect combination of flavours and textures.

Ingredients:

1.5 kg Di Cozze
800 gr Of Potatoes
700 gr Of Ripe Tomatoes
600 gr Of Onions
500 gr Of Rice
3 cloves Garlic
A Bunch Of Parsley
Olive oil q.s.
Salt q.s.

Preparation:

- 1 - Clean and mussels open, and store the water that will have produced.
- 2 - Wash and clean the vegetables, cut into thin slices the potatoes and tomatoes, and onions into very thin slices.
- 3 - Clean the parsley, wash and chop together with the cloves of peeled garlic.
- 4 - Take a pan with high sides if possible as the Apulian earthenware baking dish and grease it with olive oil.
- 5 - Arrange in the bottom half of the potato slices, then ordered half the onions, tomatoes and parsley and chopped garlic.
- 6 - Distribute over the rice in a uniform layer.
- 7 - Now put off over the mussels, and decide whether or not the shells.
- 8 - Sprinkle with chopped parsley and remaining garlic, and distributed in order upon it, the tomatoes, the onions and the remaining potatoes.
- 9 - Season with a little olive oil, poured over the water of the mussels filtered and cover flush with a little 'salt water.
- 10 - Bake in a hot oven at 180 degrees for about 45 minutes, adding more hot water if necessary.
- 11 - Serve the rice and mussels tiella lukewarm or room temperature.



q music: GOOD MORNING LONDON

Raph Solo's "Good Morning London," the second single off of his new album, *THE ANONYMOUS ICON*, is a love letter to the city he calls home. "The song is about being yourself, no matter what they say," says Solo. "Good Morning London" released to iTunes and all major online music retailers April 12, via Solo's own indie label, Angel King Musique. The new music video is available at <https://youtu.be/2rZ0OpQrVWA>. Raph Solo's full-length studio album, *THE ANONYMOUS ICON*, is also available on iTunes.

"It's a metaphorical breakup song about finding your way home," continues Solo of his sultry new single. *"As a songwriter, I never sit down to write a song. It's an organic process. When I feel inspired, the melody and the lyrics come out together as one."*

With a hit dance record under his belt, it's intuitive that Solo never stops moving - not even to write a tender pop ballad. *"I remember writing the song on the street, walking from my ex's flat to my friend's flat. My ex and I were living together at the time, and things had gotten so bad that I called up a friend to ask if I could stay over for a few nights until I found a new place to stay."*

Solo credits "Good Morning London" as one of the quickest songs he's ever written in his career as a songwriter, while walking down the streets of London, no less. Nonchalantly, he says, *"I wrote it in three minutes."*

Solo reunites with video director David Brant on the "Good Morning London" music video. *"It was really nice to be asked to work with Raph again, for what is now our third music video together,"* says Brant. *"Raph always has a strong idea of what he wants up front. Visually, we're both into that quirky, surreal, cinematic, and epic look. We just have a similar aesthetic that seems to set the mood perfectly against his music."* Solo likens baring his chiseled body on the set of "Good Morning London" to baring his soul as an artist. As the track hits full stride, Solo is seen with a big British flag wrapped around his otherwise-naked torso in a scene that's become synonymous with the singer-producer's mantra of authenticity and self-acceptance. Solo salutes a new day and a new chapter in his life, he says, with the words "Be you" scrawled on his back, and a bruised eye.

"Often we lose ourselves in relationships, and we end up saying 'yes' to please our partners because we love them, when really we want to say 'no'," Solo explains. *"And sweetness gets taken for weakness, and the fairytale turns into a nightmare. We should always remember to love and honor ourselves enough to stay true to who we are in relationships, romantic or otherwise."* The bruised eye, he says, is symbolic of the price he had to pay to learn that lesson the hard way.

The song's standout lyrics, "City life is no piece of cake // that you can have with your cup of tea on your morning break," speak to Solo's state of mind and the vivacity of the city he loves. Today, he stands tall as a gay man and outspoken advocate for human rights, and he can have his cake and eat it, too.

Inspired by up-tempo 80's pop and contemporaries like Burt Bacharach and Marvin Hamlisch, the combination of Solo's vocals, Alex Pacali's sweeping riffs, and David Brant's hypnotic stroke of the keys leaves listeners spellbound. His third record sees the full realization of Solo's signature timbre, layered with new refinement with every passing year and release, akin to the evolution of any true pop powerhouse. Solo colors his second single with a burst of falsettos, putting his vocal range on parade.

Born to Lebanese/Chilean parents on the Gulf of Guinea in Nigeria, West Africa, the singer-producer now hangs his hat in London, calling the second single a tribute to the city that's helped to shape him. "Good Morning London" speaks to exactly where I was - welcoming a new day and feeling like I was on my way home to somewhere I belong."

THE ANONYMOUS ICON includes many of Solo's prior releases, re-digitalized and re-mastered by studio maestro Leigh Darlow (Peter Banks, Robert Fripp).



q circus: CIRQUE du SOLEIL

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL IS RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA
WITH THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED

KOOZA

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.

Written and Directed by David Shiner

KOOZA NATIONAL TOUR OPENS IN SYDNEY ON AUGUST 25, 2016
AN ADRENALINE RUSH OF ACROBATICS UNDER THE BLUE-AND-YELLOW BIG TOP



Cirque du Soleil is delighted to announce the return of its trademark blue-and-yellow big top to Australia with an all-new production, KOOZA.

A sparkling, colourful homage to the traditions of circus, KOOZA will open in Sydney on Thursday, August 25 2016 and then tour to Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth.

Tickets for the Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne seasons are available and on sale now at www.cirquedusoleil.com/kooza or by calling toll free 1800 036 685.



About KOOZA

Cirque du Soleil rediscovers its origins with the company's eighth Big Top show to tour Australia. A return to the intimate and fundamental human elements of circus, KOOZA combines thrilling acrobatic performance with the art of clowning.

We follow The Innocent as he takes a journey of self-discovery through a comic kingdom of eccentric characters, electrifying thrills and out-of-the-box surprises.

Presented in a colorful mélange, KOOZA springs open like a bejeweled toy box to capture the audience's imagination and set their pulse racing. Sheer human effort - performance in its rawest, purest form - is showcased in all its splendor and fragility.

The international cast of 50 acrobats, musicians, singers and actors present heart-stopping feats and laugh-out-loud antics to a live soundtrack fusion of jazz, funk and Bollywood beats.

For more information, visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/kooza. Stay connected with KOOZA on Twitter: @Cirque #KOOZA

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL - KOOZA – 2016/2017 AUSTRALIAN TOUR
Sydney - From August 25 2016, Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park
Brisbane - From November 24 2016, Skygate Brisbane Airport (near DFO)
Melbourne - From January 20 2017, Flemington Racecourse

* Dates for the Perth season will be announced later in the year.

Tickets for Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne on sale now at cirquedusoleil.com/kooza

MAKE THE NIGHT VIP ROUGE

The ultimate Cirque du Soleil experience with the best seats and access to the intimate VIP suite one hour before the show and at intermission, including delectable wines and hors d'oeuvres and take home souvenirs.

About Cirque du Soleil

From a group of 20 street performers at its beginnings in 1984, Cirque du Soleil is a major Québec-based organization providing high-quality artistic entertainment. The company has close to 4,000 employees, including 1,300 artists from more than 50 different countries.

Cirque du Soleil has brought wonder and delight to more than 160 million spectators in more than 400 cities in over sixty countries on six continents.

For more information about Cirque du Soleil, visit www.cirquedusoleil.com

To find out more about the ONE DROP Foundation, visit www.onedrop.org



q expo: MELBOURNE DIVERSITY

Diversity is King and Queen and all things in between at the Exhibition Centre with the launch of the first Diversity Expo, a two day exhibition showcasing the LGBTI community.



Presented by Inspired Expos – Australia's leading expo company the two day event aims to help the community itself (as well as family and friends of) get in touch with LGBTI friendly businesses and organisations.

"With over 30 years experience in the Exhibition and Advertising Industry we saw a gap in the current range of expo's. Many festivals celebrate the LGBTI community, however no exhibitions showcase the many talents and services. As a result Diversity Expo was born" said Tadas Adamavicius, Managing Director.

Diversity Expo Ambassadors include Adam Samuel, local radio DJ on Joy FM and comedian and Melbourne drag Queen Dolly Diamond. The two will team up to MC the event which includes a fashion parade. The parade will be staged by Martina Lucinda and will feature designers and models from the community. Exhibitors range from banking and finance, housing, sports and fitness, formal wear, adoption and foster care, photography, health, and include companies such as Plan My Gay Wedding, Minus 18, Switchboard, Berry Street, Monash IVF and Same Love Greetings. With a Melbourne and Sydney exhibition planned annually, the exhibition also offers an opportunity to create further awareness around the LGBTI community.

All attendees will be invited to enter the Diversity Expo photography competition with prizes supplied by Star Observer. In addition to this competition, all attendees will go in a draw to win a major prize from Icon Photography valued at \$10,000 and a 3 hour Limo experience from Enrik Limo's valued at \$1,500. The weekend will also feature lot's of giveaways with pamper packs from Reva and lots of other fun stuff on offer. The first 250 guests each day will receive a Diversity Expo showbag full of goodies. Sponsors include Joy 94.9 FM, Star Observer and LOTL (Lesbians On The Loose).

Diversity Expo is designed to increase awareness by bringing attention to the wider general community. The event will also offer an opportunity to the LGBTI community to network, interact and celebrate together. Exhibitors will set up in the Melbourne Exhibition and Conference Centre on April 16th and 17th with the event running from 10am-4pm daily. Tickets are on sale now for the presale price of \$19.00. Tickets will also be available on the door.

More information visit www.diversityexpo.com.au

**GIVE YOUR WORD. PROMISE
TO STAND UP AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA,
TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA. ALWAYS.**

notohomophobia.com.au 

SIA AND PANTERA
FOR PETA



TAKE A
BITE

OUT OF ANIMAL
OVERPOPULATION:

SPAY OR
NEUTER
YOUR DOG.

q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



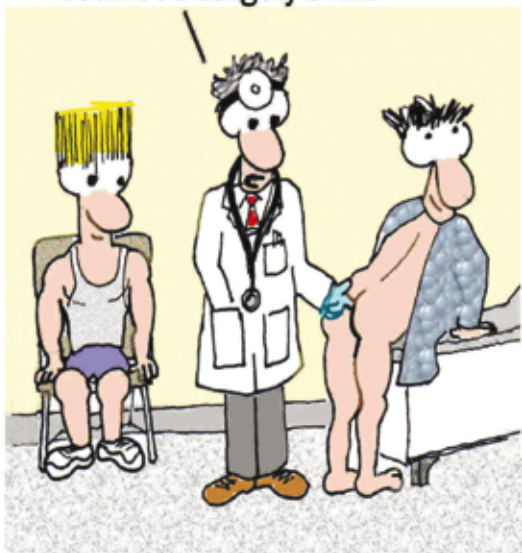
q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



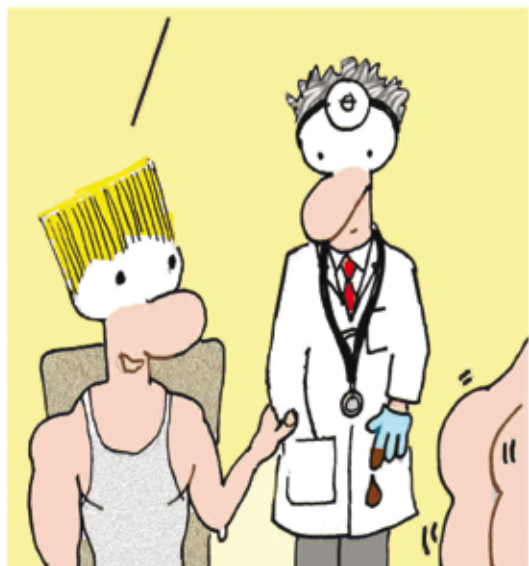
Gaylord Blade

by KICHI

Wow, that's one floppy butthole, but I think I can fix it using my cosmetic surgery skills



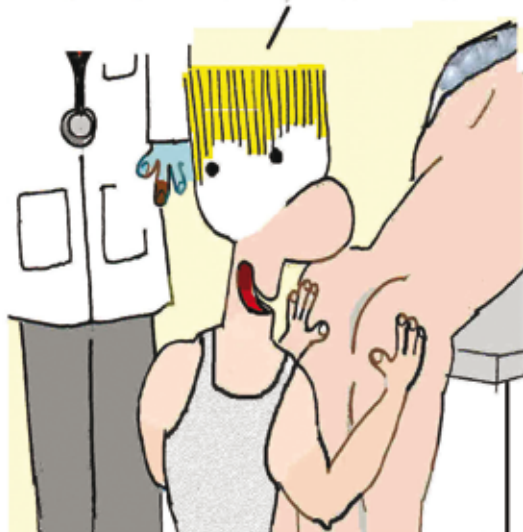
After that doc, I'd like you to strengthen MY vocal cords



Vocal cords? Pourquoi?



When I tap this tightened-up poop-chute, I'll be singing "Sweet Mystery of Life" all night long





Your connection to
LGBT-welcoming
travel businesses
worldwide.



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IGLTA Platinum Partners

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OUTLET
SHOPPING

DELTA

HILTON
WORLDWIDE



IGLTA Gold Partners: United | Hyatt

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FLAMINGOS

DANCE BAR

CAMOUFLAGE PARTY

SATURDAY APRIL 23RD

PYJAMA PARTY

SATURDAY MAY 7TH

DRAGNATION TOUR FEATURING

A YSHA

SATURDAY MAY 21ST

SHOWS, DANCERS, DJS
DRINK SPECIALS & MORE!!

